

TRADITIONAL CHAPELS IN ALABAMA

Our Lady of Lourdes
Roman Catholic Chapel
Montgomery, Alabama

St. Francis of Assisi
Roman Catholic Chapel
Cullman, Alabama

St. Pius V
Roman Catholic Chapel
Birmingham, Alabama

S C H E D U L E O F M A S S E S

10:30 A.M. - Rosary
10:45 A.M. - Mass
(ONLY on First Sunday
of each month)

6:00 A.M.
10:00 A.M.
Every Sunday
6:00 A.M.
7:00 P.M.
Holy Days

9:10 A.M. - Rosary
9:30 A.M. - Mass
(EXCEPT on first
Sunday of each month)

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 7, 1997 - - - Purple
Mass of Sunday; Credo; Preface Trinity

Weekly Bulletin # 485



ADVENT



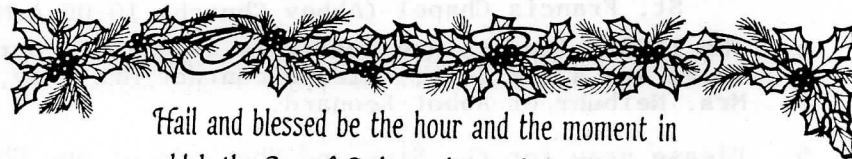
Immaculate Conception

December 8

Even though our Blessed Lady be most imitable in the exercise of virtue, it must never be allowed to enter into our hearts to cheapen her dignity by accepting readily that she is "one of us", and that anything she does can be reduced to something commonplace. Neither must it enter our minds that her powerful and unquestionable appearances - official appearances - can be anything but clear demonstrations - to all people - of the awesome beauty, dignity and majesty which have been bestowed on her by God, Himself. It is true that there entered a very singular and marvelous act of God, a unique and unshared predestination, because of which He raised her high above all men and all Angels. Mary stands loftily above us both in the resplendent beauty of her soul - in virtue of her Immaculate Conception, and in the order of her earthly being - in virtue of her Divine Maternity. She is of our race - undoubtedly. She had to be of our race. But she is not "one of us" in the bandied sense of the colloquial. She is not quite - readily accessible. She is so far above us that none stands above her but God. Consequently, our love of her and our devotion to her must ever be of a quality that inevitably builds credibility in her majestic power, and chastened with a truly tender filial reverence, for her loving motherhood.

This attitude of reverence, which pervades all true and really Catholic veneration of her, does not take away from any nearness of approach in our relations to her. She is in all the most cherished meaning of the word, a MOTHER to every one of us. She has borne and nurtured the Baby Jesus. She loves Him as her Child Who is, nevertheless, her God. She grasps the meaning and purpose of His life amongst us. She beholds us, the other children of her sorrow on Calvary: "poor banished children of Eve, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears." She knows what we are, heirs of original sin and victims of our own countless sins. Yet she loves us with a mother's compassionate love for an erring child. She appreciates what we can be, through the grace of her Son, and she loves us with every mother's ambitious love for her children. She yearns for our divine well-being, and longs to see us true images of her precious Son, in Divine life and love and virtue. Would that every one of us - her children - would strive to still the yearning of that Mother's heart.

Indeed, she is "Our tainted nature's solitary boast." For that reason the reverence we must have in our soul for her should necessarily emanate from our being in the presence of her who is so admirable, and our reverence for her must never permit the entrance of the slightest thing, idea or notion that might possibly taint the loving devotion of her children.



ADVENT

Fail and blessed be the hour and the moment in which the Son of God was born of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, O My God, to hear my prayer and grant my petition through the merits of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER

Second Sunday in Advent



ALL: A thrilling voice by Jordan rings,
 Rebuking guilt and darksomethings: *
 Vain dreams of sin and visions fly:
 Christ in His might shines forth on high!

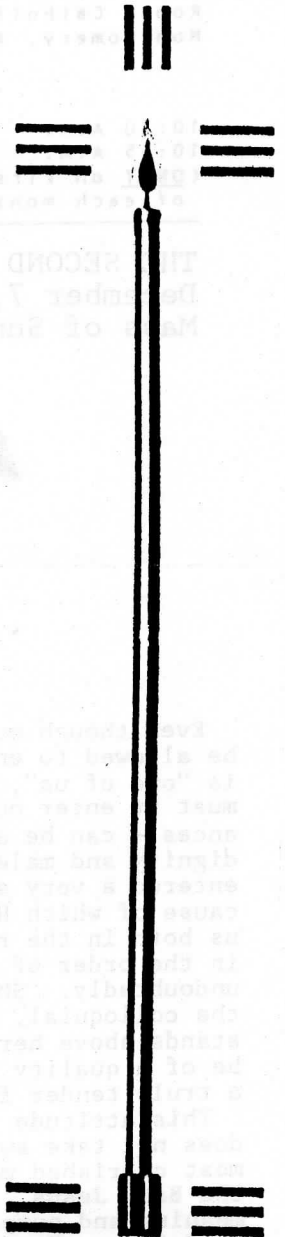
Priest: People of Sion, behold the Lord shall come to save the
 nations; and the Lord shall make the glory of His voice
 to be heard in the joy of your heart.

Priest: (V) Give ear, O Thou that rulest Israel.
 People: (R) Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Priest: (V) Glory be to the Father, and the Son and the Holy Ghost.
 People: (R) As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall
 be world without end. Amen.

Priest: LET US PRAY: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare
 the ways of Thine only-begotten Son, that through His
 coming we may be worthy to serve Him with purified minds.
 Through Christ our Lord.

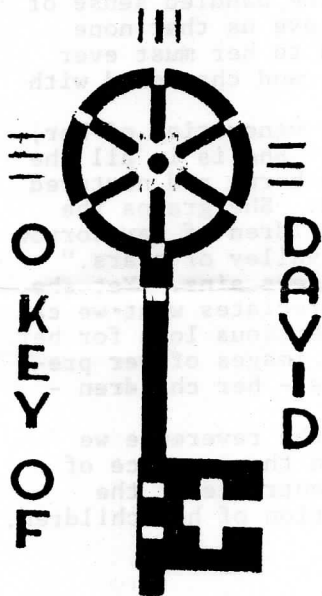
People: Amen.
 (PRIEST LIGHTS SECOND CANDLE)



1. Tomorrow, December 8, 1997 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of our Most Blessed Mother, and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses in the Abbey Church only are:
 6:00 A.M. - - 8:00 A.M. - - 7:00 P.M.
2. MATTER OF HISTORICAL RECORD: On Wednesday, December 3, 1997, the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, four large leaded stained glass windows were installed in our Abbey Church:
 (1) St. Boniface, (2) St. Gregory the Great, (3) St. Hildegarde,
 (4) St. Scholastica. Let us pray for the donors of these beautiful windows - they are among the best.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbot Leonard's Schedule only)

SUNDAY:	For the People of the Chapels
MONDAY:	Welfare of Christ the King Abbey
TUESDAY:	For the Poor Souls
WEDNESDAY:	Welfare Victor Cavdek
THURSDAY:	Welfare of the DeMark Family
FRIDAY:	Special Int. Catherine Schwartz
SATURDAY:	Dec. Paul Nadler



3. Christmas Schedule of Masses:
 Abbey Church: (St. Francis' Chapel) 12:00 Midnight
 Church opens at 11:30 P.M.
CHRISTMAS CAROLS
 There will be no confessions before Midnight Mass.
NOTE WELL -There will be NO 6:00 A.M. Mass Christmas Day.
 St. Pius Chapel - Birmingham 9:00 A.M.
 St. Francis Chapel (Abbey Church) 10:00 A.M.
4. The 1998 Calendars are available at \$6,00 - our cost. There are a few left. Please contact Mrs. Roy, or Mrs. Neibuhr or Abbot Leonard.
5. Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels especially remembering Al Sachs and Ethel Wallace. It is so important to pray for our Sick during these wonderful Days, and to pray for those who must care for the Sick - they have a real sacrifice.
6. Friday, December is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saturday is the Feast of St. Lucy.